

**United States European Command**

# **State Partnership Stockholders Report**



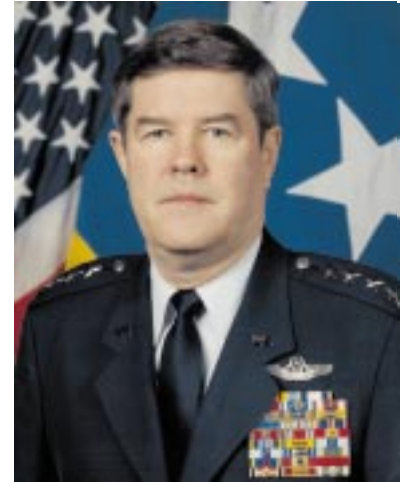
A map of Eastern Europe and the Balkans region, showing the Black Sea to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. The following countries are labeled on the map:

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Belarus
- Poland
- Czech Rep.
- Slovakia
- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Georgia
- Slovenia
- Hungary
- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Albania
- F.Y.R.O.M.



# Commander in Chief United States European Command September 2000

The end of the Cold War left many nations independent yet struggling for direction both politically and economically. In the realization that the stability and prosperity of Eastern Europe is intrinsically linked to the continued peace and economic success of Western Europe, the United States and the global environment, a number of assistance measures were launched. Among the most successful is the State Partnership Program which is conducted under the auspices of the National Guard Bureau. The program rapidly expanded from a simple adjunct to the Partnership for Peace program into a significant section of the United States European Command's overall theater engagement strategy.



The 98/99 Stockholders Report gives a vivid portrait of the efforts devoted to the State Partnership Program. I am pleased at the many successes our States have had building relationships with their partner countries. Not only have our forces, both reserve and active, gained a wealth of experience in conducting operations and activities abroad, but they have done much to bring peace and stability to Eastern Europe.

We, at European Command, remember the successes of the State Partnership Program which helped bring Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as new members. We also look forward to assisting our other partner countries to achieve free market economies and civilian-controlled military establishments responsive to the needs of their citizens. The State Partnership Program will continue to be an integral part of our strategy to foster stability and democracy in Eastern Europe.

I appreciate the efforts of the individual men and women of the Reserve Components and of their collective organizations in making these important contributions to international security. I am proud to present this report of their activities during Fiscal Years 1998/99 and look forward to continued success.

Joseph W. Ralston  
General, USAF  
Commander in Chief, Europe

## ***INTRODUCTION***

This report is from the Commander in Chief, Europe to members of Congress, State and Territorial Governors, Adjutants General and Reserve Component Generals and Flag Officers. The report highlights contributions by the various states to our national security, and emphasizes the effects of the State Partnership Program (SPP) on the emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The current report chronicles the SPP's contributions for Fiscal Years 1998/99. The program continues to build institutional relationships, foster free market economies, demonstrate our peaceful intent, and promote military and economic integration of partner nations into the world community. In this way, it is hoped, that prejudice will be replaced with informed opinion and ancient hatreds will subside.

The State Partnership Program (SPP) is important to the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) for the practical, short-term assistance provided to participating countries which in turn serves the strategic, long-term national interests of fostering democratic principles throughout the region. By focusing the assets of a state's National Guard on a single nation, SPP encourages the establishment of ties between U.S. and member nations' businesses, local governments, and educational systems. The program also demonstrates the nation-building capabilities of the Reserve Components. The Commander in Chief, Europe's (CINCEUR) strategy of engagement and preparedness is supported by the State Partnership Program.

The National Guard of the various states exemplifies the idea of military subordination to civilian control. Guard members train for war, serve their states in peace and are citizens every day. The participation of members of the American armed forces and members of their civilian communities in SPP events communicates the principal that military service is first of all service to the community and nation.

***State Partnership Program***  
***“Bridge to America”***



## ***THE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM***

Dramatic political, socio-economic, and military changes occurring in recent years have caused the United States European Command to refocus its support of the U.S. National Security and National Command Authorities' strategic objectives in Europe. This change in focus increased the role of the Reserve Components in USEUCOM's strategy of engagement and preparedness. In 1993 the National Guard Bureau developed the State Partnership Program, which was authorized for implementation by the Joint Staff. The National Guard Bureau is the lead agent for the SPP, with the other Reserve Components in support of the program. The SPP has the following objectives:

1. Demonstrate military subordination to civilian authority.
2. Demonstrate military support to civilian authorities.
3. Assist in the development of democratic institutions.
4. Foster open market economies to help bring stability.
5. Project and represent U.S. humanitarian values.

Achieving these objectives requires joint efforts in multiple civil, military and economic tasks including:

### ***Defined***

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Emergency Response       | 10. State & Federal Finances |
| 2. Crisis Action            | 11. Civil Engineering        |
| 3. Personnel/Management     | 12. Civil Affairs            |
| 4. Education/Training       | 13. Communications           |
| 5. Logistics                | 14. Military Medicine        |
| 6. Resource Management      | 15. Public Affairs           |
| 7. Military Law/Security    | 16. Transportation           |
| 8. Environmental Protection | 17. Policy Development       |
| 9. Community Relations      | 18. Counterdrug Activities   |

The SPP aligns selected American states with the independent states of Central and Eastern Europe (former Warsaw Pact and former Yugoslav nations) as well as other countries around the world. The program encourages the development of economic, political and military ties between our states and the new democracies. The U.S. military functions as a role model in demonstrating how a military can interact with and remain subordinate to civil authorities.

The optimum SPP partnership is one in which: the host nation professes genuine interest in a partnership; U.S. and theater engagement objectives are satisfied; U.S. and theater engagement objectives are satisfied; the force protection risk is low; a minimum of additional resources is required to execute engagement; and, National Guard core engagement competencies, particularly military support to civil authority, are heavily incorporated.

A partnership must be requested by a host nation and approved by the U.S. Ambassador to the host country, USEUCOM, (or the combatant command involved), the Joint Staff and the National Guard Bureau (NGB). Once approved, the Chief, NGB

assigns a partner state based on a number of factors which make the nation and state appropriate partners.

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To date, seventeen partnerships have been formed with nations in Central and Eastern Europe under the auspices of USEUCOM.

## ***Partners***

### ***The Seventeen State***

#### ***Partnerships in the USEUCOM are:***

Alabama - Romania	North Carolina - Moldova
California & Kansas - Ukraine	Ohio - Hungary
Colorado - Slovenia	Pennsylvania - Lithuania
Georgia - Republic of Georgia	South Carolina & New Jersey - Albania
Illinois - Poland	Tennessee - Bulgaria
Indiana - Slovakia	Texas & Nebraska - Czech Republic
Maryland - Estonia	Utah - Belarus
Michigan - Latvia	Vermont - FYR of Macedonia
Minnesota - Croatia	

### ***STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM***

## ***Evolution***

The United States was first asked to participate in a North Atlantic Cooperation Council assistance visit to Latvia in July 1992. The NATO team consisted of representatives from the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway and the United States. The United States had the specific task of addressing "Military Support To Civil Authorities" (MSCA). The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy provided the representative for the U.S. Mission to NATO and the Group on Defense Matters, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also sent a representative to NATO. The National Guard Bureau (NGB) provided briefing materials and other support items for use by the team.

Simultaneously, USEUCOM, working under the direction of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), developed a Military-to-Military Contact Program. This program was later renamed the Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP), with the nations of the former Warsaw Pact. NGB, USEUCOM and the Joint Staff developed a proposal to place the concept plan for Latvia under the umbrella of the overall USEUCOM JCTP and to extend the concept to include the Baltic Republics of Estonia and Lithuania.

The Chief, NGB, and the Deputy Director of the USEUCOM JCTP led a multi-agency delegation to the Baltics for discussions to facilitate further contacts scheduled

## *Evolution*

for November 1992. The team met with the Presidents and Ministers of Defense of Latvia and Estonia and other officials of the three Baltic republics. The U.S. delegation was well received, with each nation expressing an interest in participating in the program and in developing closer ties with the United States.

The philosophy, organization and functions of the U.S. National Guard impressed the Latvians who then expressed a desire to learn more. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy asked the National Guard Bureau to prepare a concept plan to provide further assistance. After receiving guidance on the general direction of the initiative, NGB was directed by the JCS to begin work. This concept plan was to become the State Partnership Program (SPP).

On 2 December 1992, an IAWG (membership included representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the State Department and the National Security Council) approved continued planning for the JCTP with the Baltic nations, emphasizing military support to civil authorities. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff endorsed National Guard participation in the USEUCOM JCTP in the Baltics on 14 December 1992, noting that "...the Guard's support will continue to be the key to the successful accomplishment of the mission." The IAWG, on 27 January 1993, gave final approval for Military-to-Military contacts for each of the Baltic republics and stressed that the National Guard, the Coast Guard Reserve, and the other Reserve Component forces be used extensively.

A National Guard Colonel became the first Military Liaison Team (MLT) Chief in the Baltics, in March 1993. A month later, in April 1993, NGB proposed that the SPP support JCTP Operations. USEUCOM institutionalized SPP in the USEUCOM Reserve Component Campaign Plan in September 1995. Since that time, SPP has become multifaceted with engagement activities in the social, economic and military spheres. The State Partnership Program actively supports the mandate of the National Military Strategy to shape the international security environment.

## ***STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONCEPTS***

The SPP amalgamates the partner nation's priorities, the U.S. Ambassadors' plans and CINCEUR's strategic objectives into a single program which is then conducted by the USEUCOM team and the Reserve Components. The following action teams and concepts were developed to achieve the goals of the SPP:

1. Support of EUCOM JCTP:
  - a. Military Liaison Teams
  - b. Traveling Contact Teams
  - c. Familiarization Visits
2. Minuteman Fellowships
3. SPP-Related Activities

## ***Military Liaison Teams***

Military Liaison Teams (MLTs) are dynamic teams, with three to five members, working under the auspices of the Joint Contact Team Program in each of the SPP countries. The component makeup of the teams is guided by the needs of the host nation. CINCEUR deploys MLTs to facilitate JCTP events that assist the partner countries develop military forces into institutions which complement their efforts to transition to democracy and free market economies. One of the MLT's primary tasks is to develop a "work plan" with the Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Embassy staff. This work plan while adhering to U.S. theater objectives specifies assistance requested by the host nation to implement democratic reforms.

Examples of areas addressed in the work plan include: human rights guarantees, a military legal code based on the rights of soldiers, a professional Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Corps, a Chaplain Corps, and governmental structures designed to ensure the military's political neutrality and loyalty to a lawful constitution. States assign a State Partner representative to each MLT. More important is the fact that the SPP representative serves as either the chief or deputy chief of his/her MLT.

## ***Traveling Contact Teams***

Traveling Contact Teams (TCTs) are one of the most common components of the JCTP. American citizens with expertise in a specific area identified in the host nation's work plan are given short-term duty assignments on TCTs. Traveling Contact Teams are composed of military Department of Defense equivalent civilian experts in a wide variety of disciplines, including civil-military relations, military-judicial development, logistics support, public affairs and personnel management. The members of the teams share their specialized competence directly with their host nation counterparts. A TCT normally consists of three to five days of familiarization and exposure to the given topic area.

## ***Familiarization Visits***

Familiarization Visits (FAMs), as the name implies, are events which bring partner nation leaders to U.S. facilities in Europe or the United States. During these visits the guests observe U.S. methods and organizational structures. In this way leaders from the partner nations gain insights into the American way of life and the role of the military in society at large. Familiarization Visits, which last from five to ten days, provide valuable familiarization and exposure as well as "breaking the ice" for future contacts.

## ***SPP-Related Activities***

At various times, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) sponsors reciprocal visits between States and partner nations. OSD also provides equipment, personnel and training as emergency preparedness support to partner nations. Similarly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in order to broaden membership and participation in the SPP, send Traveling Contact Teams to countries in the USEUCOM Area of Interest (AOI).

In fiscal year 1998, the Tennessee National Guard (TNNG) and the National Interagency Civil-Military Institute (NICI) brought members of the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) to Memphis, TN. The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate how interstate agreements and relationships, such as the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), are established in the U.S. political system. The

## Conferences

CUSEC is an agreement between six U.S. states in preparation for disaster relief in the event of an earthquake along the New Madrid fault.

The conference presented countries of the Balkan region, which experiences extreme seismic activity, a model of how governmental and non-governmental agencies in the U.S. work together in preparation for disasters. Representatives of SEDM countries were encouraged to hold talks and delineate the capabilities each country could offer in case of a natural disaster. The guest officials responded to a simulated earthquake during a role-playing forum.

In fiscal year 1999, a similar workshop was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The focus of this workshop was flood preparedness. A fiscal year 2000 nuclear response workshop is currently being planned for Baltimore, Maryland. NGB will continue to use NICI's unique capabilities and the U.S. states' expertise in the military support to civil authorities to help EUCOM's partner nations meet their goals and objectives.



*Major General Smith welcomes participants to Ohio and the Partnership for Peace Multi-Lateral European Flood Preparedness Workshop.*



## ***CURRENT EVENTS***

The National Interagency Civil-Military Institute (NICI) is rapidly becoming an integral element of the State Partnership Program. NICI was established as a National Guard Bureau field operating activity providing training to the military, community members and upper level managers from law enforcement and other government agencies.

NICI has permanent facilities and classrooms at Camp San Luis Obispo, California, but has conducted courses throughout the United States and in several foreign countries since its inception. The National Interagency Civil-Military Institute conducts courses in counter drug operations, drug abuse prevention and reduction, military support to civil authorities, force protection and community response to various emergencies.

In January 1998, NICI conducted the first Civil Protection Programs Course. This course was a result of a collaborative effort between NICI, the Department of the Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Russian agency EMERCOM. The course focused on international disaster assistance and has been translated for use in Russia.

Course work provided by NICI has been certified for law enforcement credit in 35 states and is eligible for upper division credit at selected universities.

Significant to the USEUCOM Peacetime Theater Engagement Plan was the first In-the-Spirit-of-Partnership for Peace Multilateral European Flood Preparedness Workshop. This workshop was co-hosted by NICI and the Ohio National Guard 25-30 April 1999 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The course was funded by the Department of Defense and held for emergency preparedness officials from Austria, Czech Republic, Republic of Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Ecuador and Peru, as well as military members from USEUCOM and USSOUTHCOM. The course concentrated on the unique disaster relief requirements caused by floods. Emergency planning and disaster preparedness personnel from local, state and federal agencies provided insight into preparation for and activities conducted during floods in the United States. The emergency planning personnel from the participating nations provided insight as well, based on situations in their respective countries.

The Multilateral European Flood Preparedness Workshop provided the forum for the exchange of emergency planning procedures and facilitated cooperation between participating nations. The National Guard Bureau will continue this type of program by sponsoring at least one such event each year.

## ***NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU INITIATIVES***

Lieutenant General Baca, former Chief, National Guard Bureau, established the General Officer Steering Committee on National Guard involvement in international affairs. The committee's charter is to review and develop policy and strategies for the National Guard in the organization's role in international affairs. The steering committee evaluates all aspects of the National Guard's international programs and forwards review

## ***General Officer Steering Committee***

and advice to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, on organization, National Guard in the organization's role in international affairs. The steering committee evaluates all aspects of the National Guard's international programs and forwards review and advice to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, on organization, resources, doctrine, strategy, policy, plans, operations, training and required legislation. The General Officer Steering Committee gives recommendations on the establishment of future partnerships while overseeing existing State Partnership Programs in USEUCOM, USCENTCOM, USSOUTHCOM, and USPACOM.

With peacetime engagement becoming an ever more defined mission of the U.S. Department of Defense, the need also grows to engage friendly nations outside the spectrum of the combat oriented, military-to-military event. The National Guard Minuteman Fellows concept exemplifies this non-traditional approach to engagement which seeks to foster broad-based military, political and economic stability within a target country or region.

Through the Minuteman Fellowship, which is an immersion program, the National Guard demonstrates to partner nations the concept of Military Support to Civil Authority. Often the fellowships are timed to coincide with a State's annual training (AT) period. The training is designed to showcase the Guard's dual federal and state missions of national defense and community support. During the latter mission of community support State and local agencies participate with the Guard in training exercises.

### ***ENGAGEMENT VALUES:***

Key benefits of the Minuteman Fellowships as a peacetime engagement tool are:

1. Demonstration of military support to civil authorities in both National Defense and domestic response missions.
2. Increased options for non- traditional military-to-military contact offered to the combatant CINC by the civilian occupations and the rich, varied life experience of Guard members.
3. The comparatively low personnel turnover rate in the National Guard allows relationships established during a contact event to continue and flourish during subsequent years.
4. The program is flexible and can be readily adapted to newly initiated, developing and fully mature partnerships.
5. The relatively low cost of the program yields a disproportionately large return on investment in terms of shaping the international security environment.
6. Demonstrates the interagency cooperation and preplanning necessary to respond to domestic crises such as environmental degradation and natural disaster.
7. Directly supports the CINC's Theater Engagement Plan (TEP).

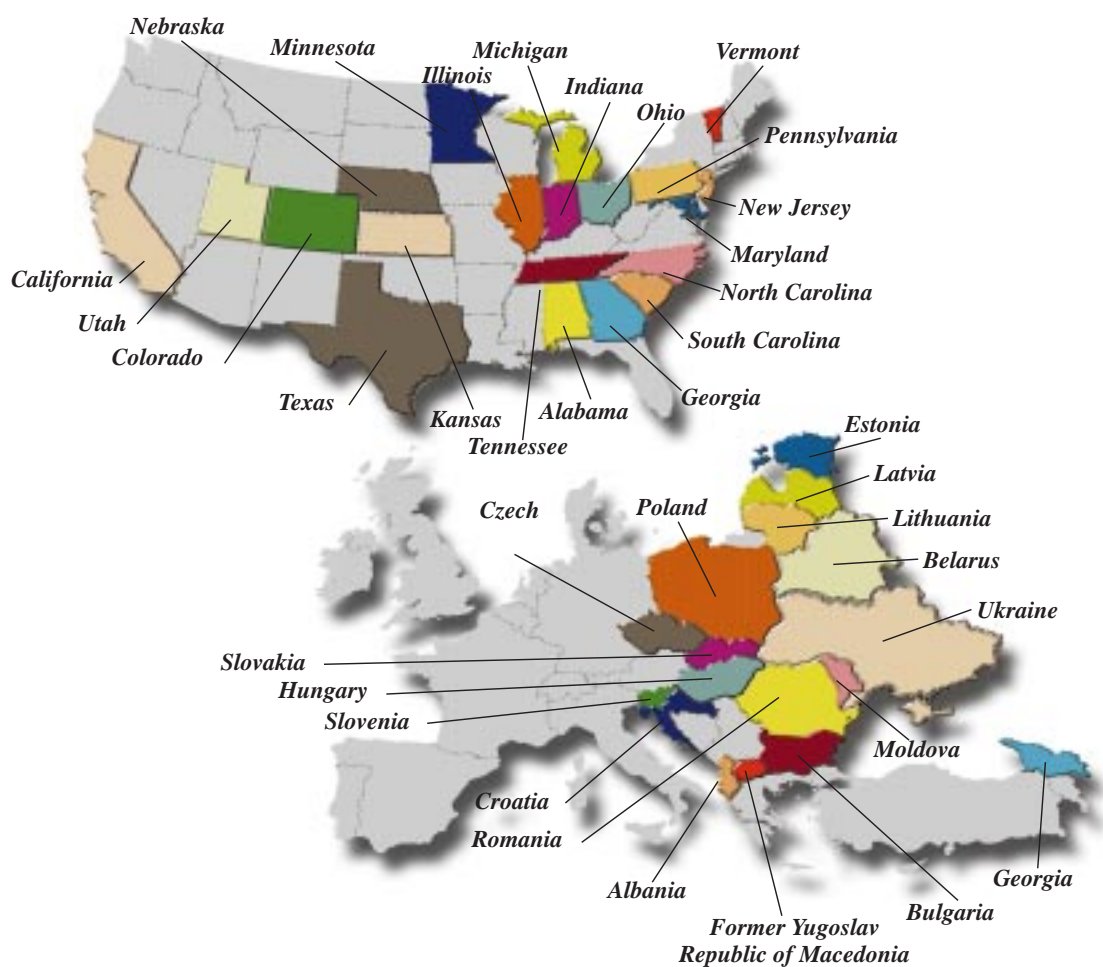
## ***Minuteman Fellowships***

## ***THE U.S. NATIONAL GUARD “GUARDEX” PROGRAM***

GUARDEX is an evolving program which augments U.S. European Command's engagement programs. Since 1995, additional Peacekeeping; Peace Support; Search and Rescue; and Civil Military Emergency Planning for Humanitarian Assistance events have been conducted under the auspices of the GUARDEX program. Under the program, teams or units from a Partner nation come to the United States and deploy with the State's National Guard during the two-week annual training cycle. In fiscal year 1999 the National Guard Bureau's GUARDEX program resourced two multilateral and 17 bilateral events. This program not only helps alleviate the operational and personnel tempo of the active component but the individual and unit contacts provide a basis for greatly expanded U.S. - Partner nation relationships.

## ***THE STATE PARTNERSHIPS***

Chronicled below are the events conducted in 1998 and 1999 by the states and partner nations involved in the U.S. European Command State Partnership Program. Among the many accomplishments of the program is the mutual understanding developed between the participants. The host nation for any given event not only learned from their guests but also shared their language, culture and history. The newly independent and developing nations are gaining expertise in building free societies with militaries subordinate to and supportive of civil authorities. The United States is gaining allies in a more stable and democratic world.







## ***ALABAMA - ROMANIA***

Romania, which is almost as large as Oregon, shares borders with Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Hungary and Serbia. The city of Constanta, (pronounced cone-STAHN-za), located on the Black Sea is Romania's main seaport. The trek of the Danube River through Europe ends at the Danube Delta north of Constanta. Of the approximately 25 million people who comprise the population of Romania, 10% live in the capital, Bucharest. Orthodoxy is professed by 70% of Romanians. Romania has achieved marked economic gains in the face of significant difficulties since the downfall of Ceausescu in December of 1989. With his election in November of 1996, President Constantinescu assumed power from President Illiescu, a Communist, and instituted meaningful economic reform. The Romanian Army and General Staff continue to use the United States military as a model for staff organization, while downsizing their armed forces.

During Fiscal Year 1999, 16 State Partnership Program events were conducted. Alabama, through the Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP), sponsored nine Familiarization Visits (FAM) and seven Traveling Contact Team (TCT) events. Five premier FAMs have been Shadow FAMs; in which an English speaking Romanian officer traveled to Alabama and observed an Alabama National Guard unit during field training. The officer shadowed his counterpart for the entire visit, learning first-hand his American counterpart's responsibilities that are included in a tactical environment. The individuals involved were an S-3, S-4 and a Platoon Leader from a mechanized battalion as well as a mechanized company commander and a tank company commander.

A number of other TCTs exchanged invaluable information regarding corps level logistics in the field; National Guard mobilization; engineer support and logistical support for a heavy brigade; armor field operations; and C3I and Signal C3I. One of the highlights of the year was the FAM "Attack Helicopter Pilot Training Orientation" conducted at the Army Aviation School, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

In 1999, Alabama hosted nine delegations of the Romanian Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense. Alabama officers and non-commissioned officers traveled to Romania on seven occasions in order to provide information on a wide range of subjects requested by the Romanian military. In addition to these activities, Alabama hosted nine soldiers during annual training 1999. These soldiers "shadowed" their U.S. counterparts for two weeks, observing their activities in the field. These events were extremely important in nurturing the relationship between the Alabama National Guard and the Romanian soldiers. During this period the Alabama National Guard also hosted a National Guard State Partnership Program - Minuteman Fellow, Field Artillery

Minuteman Fellow, Field Artillery Minuteman Exchange. This event allowed commanders and staff of Romanian Peacekeeping and Rapid Reaction Force Artillery units to become familiar with the execution and evaluation of annual training of Alabama National Guard Field Artillery units. The event further strengthened the relationship and enhanced the camaraderie between the Romanian military and the state of Alabama.

In September of 1999, the Alabama National Guard, in conjunction with the 21st TAACOM, wrote and participated in a disaster response exercise entitled "Rescuer 99". The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff sponsored this computerized, In-the-Spirit-of-Partnership for Peace exercise. The exercise included the Alabama National Guard and the countries of Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Slovenia, Moldova, Ukraine and Romania.

During the 2000 training year, the Alabama National Guard will participate in more than 22 bilateral activities with the Romanian Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense. The Alabama National Guard eagerly anticipates a continuing partnership with Romania.



## ***CALIFORNIA - KANSAS - UKRAINE***

Ukraine is located on the north edge of the Black Sea and shares borders with Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Slovakia. The country is slightly smaller than Texas. The population is 73% Ukrainian, 22% Russian and 5% other ethnic groups. The two major religions are Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic. Although Ukraine officially gained independence from the Soviet Union on 1 December 1991, the country celebrates 24 August 1991 as its National Day.

After Russia itself, Ukraine was far and away the most important economic component of the former Soviet Union, generating approximately four times the output of the next-ranking republic. Ukraine's fertile, black soil produced more than one-fourth of Soviet agricultural output, and provided substantial quantities of meat, milk, grain, and vegetables to other republics. Similarly, the republic's diversified heavy industry supplied equipment and raw materials to industrial and mining sites in other regions of the former USSR. In December 1991, the Ukrainian Government liberalized most price controls and established a legal framework for privatization. Widespread resistance, however, from within the government and the legislature soon stalled reform. Output in the years 1992 through 1998 fell to less than half the 1991 level. Further, due to undisciplined monetary policies, Ukraine suffered hyperinflation in late 1993. President Kuchma, since his election in July 1994, has instituted economic reforms, maintained financial discipline, and removed many price and foreign trade controls.

The California and Kansas National Guards are very proud of the State Partnership with Ukraine. Training Years 1998 and 1999 proved to be exceptional years for this State Partnership Program. Excellent working relationships with the Ukrainian National Guard, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Emergencies have been maintained, while including many other Ukrainian agencies such as the Ministry of Health and the Border Guards in SPP events. Not only were travelling contact team events and familiarization visits conducted, but also high-level visits, Minuteman Fellowships, conferences, small unit training, and PEACESHIELD 99. The last named event is a complex multinational and multi-state peacekeeping operations exercise.



*Special Forces Airborne Operations with the National Guard of Ukraine, exercise PARTNERSHIP GUARD 98*

In June of 1998, members of the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard, participated in search and rescue training at the Ukrainian Air Force's search and rescue center in Crimea. The pilots and pararescue specialists from the 129th were able to exchange information and techniques, as well as participate in land and water rescue operations.

In the summer of 1998, Colonel Jacob Leisle, California Air National Guard and Colonel Geoffrey Lanning, Kansas Army National Guard served as guest instructors at the Ukrainian National Guard Academy in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The officers spent two weeks at the academy instructing cadets on U.S. History and culture, as well as battalion and brigade tactics. During their stay, the officers developed close friendships with many of their Ukrainian colleagues. The two American officers felt as though they had found a second home in the Ukraine.

During the first two weeks of August 1998, a Special Forces team from the 100th Troop Command, California Army National Guard, traveled to eastern Ukraine for annual training. The 12 soldiers participated in peacekeeping training with Special Forces of the National Guard of Ukraine. The soldiers also trained in route reconnaissance, first aid, casualty evacuation and airborne operations. The California guardsmen were awarded Ukrainian "Jump Wings" at the end of this training. The Special Forces event was very significant, because it was the first time U.S. Forces have conducted joint training with the Ukrainian National Guard in Ukraine.

In September, the California Army National Guard participated in exercise PEACESHIELD '98 near L'viv, Ukraine. Forty-two soldiers made up brigade and battalion cells as part of a multinational peacekeeping force from 21 separate countries. Additionally, over 50 distinguished civilians from California participated in the opening ceremony for the exercise. Included in that group were teachers, elected officials, leading businessmen and important representatives of the media. Personnel from the Department

of Russian and East European Studies, University of Kansas have been vital in linking these important officials with their Ukrainian civilian counterparts in L'viv.

The Military Liaison Team in Ukraine was established on October 1, 1998. Lieutenant Colonel Mitch Brown, California Army National Guard, was selected as the first deputy team chief for the MLT.

Also in 1998, the California National Guard expanded its Minuteman Fellowship Program. During California's flood season, Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Timofeiev, Ukrainian Ministry of Emergencies, worked for 30 days as an assistant operations officer in the Crisis Action Center at the California National Guard Headquarters. He witnessed first-hand how the California National Guard responds to emergency situations and works to support civil authorities in this type of situation. Additionally, Colonel Timofeiev shared his knowledge and valuable experiences with members of the California Guard.

The Kansas National Guard expanded its role in the Partnership Program during 1998 taking the lead in development of the Chaplain Corps National Guard of Ukraine and teaching legal aspects of the U.S. military reserve force structure. This program will continue to develop in future years.

Also during Training Year 1998, "sister unit" relationships were established as part of the Ukraine Partnership. Relationships were established between the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), California Army National Guard and the 6th Division, National Guard of Ukraine and the 93rd Motorized Rifle Division, Ground Forces of Ukraine. The Kansas Army National Guard



*190 ARW of the Kansas ANG, hosts Ukraine Doctors*

established a sister unit relationship between the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and the 7th Division, National Guard of Ukraine.

One of the most important aspects of SPP is the exposure of partner nations' military personnel to typical American life through U.S. National Guard members. This "Bridge to America" is an important part of sharing democratic values and civilian control of the military. An excellent program that provides this cultural link is Minuteman Fellowships. Though Minuteman Fellowships, Ukrainians and members of the California and Kansas National Guards spend extended periods of time in the partner country.



In 1999, California, Kansas, and the California-Ukraine Sister Cities Program, hosted fourteen Ukrainian municipal leaders and military officers for three-week Minuteman Fellowships which occurred in both California and Kansas. The Minuteman Fellows stayed with American families and participated in their daily lives. The Ukrainians also met with key business and industry leaders and local, county, and state government officials. The Ukrainian military delegates also visited the R.O.T.C. program and the University of Davis. One of the most important results of the event was the many friendships formed between the Ukrainians and their host families.

Beginning in April, 1999, the 129th Rescue Wing located in Sunnyvale, California hosted Captain Olexander (Sasha) Kolisnichenco, a Ukrainian Air Force search and rescue pilot. Captain Kolisnichenco spent 45 days as a Minuteman Fellow exchanging information with his U.S. counterparts concerning combat search and rescue planning and procedures. Upon his departure, Captain Kolisnichenco stated that the fellowship was one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. The officers and airmen of the 129<sup>th</sup> consider Sasha Kolisnichenco to be a new member of the California National Guard family.

In Kansas, an Air Force Aeromedical Familiarization event was held from 13 through 16 May, 1999. Four Ukrainian Air Force physicians toured the 190<sup>th</sup> ARW clinic, two area hospitals, the Menningers Psychiatric Hospital, and a civilian aeromedical transport service. Kansas Air National Guard physicians Percival and Erlina Pascua hosted the delegation. The delegation then traveled to Detroit, Michigan to attend the Aerospace Medical Association Scientific Meeting. This visit introduced and familiarized the Ukrainian Air Force physicians with the Air Force and Air National Guard medical services.



*Members of 4th Squad, Kansas Platoon pose for a photo.*

From 6 through 12 June, 1999, a combined California and Kansas Aeromedical Traveling Contact Team event was conducted. Each of the state partners sent two medical personnel to the Ukrainian Air Force Training Center at Vinitza, Ukraine. The U.S. delegation was shown facilities and medical programs in the Ukraine Air Force. The Americans observed training as it related to aerospace medicine and aerospace personnel. Dr. (Col) Percival Pascua, a former Olympic medallist in swimming, was one of the Kansas participants and had the honor of meeting a Ukrainian Olympic swimming medallist during a social gathering.

As a first step in the sister unit concept, twelve soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard traveled to Simferopol, Ukraine, with their counterparts from the 7th Division, National Guard of Ukraine from 3 to 10 July, 1999. The soldiers from Kansas both observed and demonstrated leadership skills, small unit tasking, and weapons and vehicle familiarization. The Americans not only gained professional development, but also acquired lasting friendships.

Fifteen civilian, government, and military personnel from different areas of Ukraine visited the State of Kansas, during the U.S. Independence holiday season. The delegation was treated to fireworks display, civic and civil leader tours, as well as a visit to the state capitol. Residents of the greater Wichita and Topeka areas hosted individuals from the Ukrainian delegation. This gave an opportunity for friendships to develop, and provided for some late night discussions, as people got to know each other, and shared information about family and national interests. The guests from Ukraine saw many aspects of life in Kansas from farming, to the National Guard, to civilian occupations in the aircraft industry, and university life.

Four chaplains from Kansas, and two chaplains from California, visited the Ukrainian Military from 6 to 12 July 1999 to discuss the benefits offered to military members by the Chaplain Corps. The chaplains were treated to a tour of religious sites in the Kiev area, and met many clerical leaders. This was the first visit by the Kansas and California National Guard Chaplains to Ukraine which set a solid foundation for future exchanges.

The Ukraine Minister of Emergencies headed a delegation which visited Kansas from 28 June through 13 July, 1999. The group witnessed the aftermath of a tornado - a few days prior to their arrival, a damaging tornado touched down in Wichita and the surrounding suburbs. The Kansas National Guard demonstrated Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA) while coordinating with state and federal agencies to assist in the cleanup and security of the damaged areas. Additionally, the delegation toured emergency operation centers (EOCs), a nuclear power plant, and state defense facilities.

PEACESHIELD '99 was conducted in August of 1999. Active duty soldiers and National Guard personnel from California, Kansas and Illinois participated with Ukrainian and Georgian soldiers in the largest peacekeeping exercise in Europe. L'viv, in western Ukraine, hosted PEACESHIELD '99. The exercise encompassed both a battalion-size field training exercise (FTX) and a computer assisted command post exercise (CPX). Kansas troops deployed to the annual exercise for the first time in 1999.

The Adjutants General of California and Kansas also traveled to PEACESHIELD '99. Between 8 and 14 August, the Adjutants Generals visited troops from their respective states, made office calls with Ukrainian military leaders and held discussions with U.S. Embassy representatives on the future roles of the California and Kansas National Guards in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency (MOE) personnel with a background in Nuclear Power plant operations observed a nuclear disaster response evaluation, conducted by FEMA and the NRC at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Kansas. The event was held from 3 to 8 October, 1999. The Ukrainian delegation received a tour of the power plant, visited the main Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the military EOC, a forward deployed checkpoint, and the power plant's EOC. The tours demonstrated the functioning and interaction of each organization in the event of an actual disaster. Participants further exchanged information regarding the similarities and differences in the nuclear programs in the U.S. and Ukraine.

In September 1999, the California National Guard hosted several members of the Ukrainian Border Guards at the National Interagency Civil-Military Institute's (NICI) Counterdrug Manager's Conference. Through the NICI, which is a National Guard Bureau asset, the California Guard shared its expertise in counterdrug and border operations.

Throughout 1999, the 40th Infantry Division conducted a series of small unit and staff officer exchanges with the 93rd Motorized Rifle Division, Ministry of Defense and the 6th Division, National Guard of Ukraine. Additionally, the California Air National Guard conducted two sister hospital exchanges with the National Guard of Ukraine.

The California and Kansas National Guards deeply appreciate the many Ukrainian civilians and military personnel who have helped make this State Partnership Program so extremely successful. The men and women of the California and Kansas National Guards look forward to improving the program in next year and beyond.



## ***COLORADO - SLOVENIA***

The Republic of Slovenia is located on the Adriatic Sea bordering Croatia, Hungary, Austria, and Italy. Slovenia celebrates national statehood on 25 June 1991, which is the day the republic won independence from Yugoslavia. In 1997 Slovenia received an invitation to begin accession negotiations with the European Union due to the nation's relatively high gross domestic product, moderate inflation, and comfortable level of international reserves.

The Colorado National Guard enjoys a strong relationship with Slovenia through the State Partnership Program. Further, the high level of professionalism of the Slovenes and the Colorado Guardsmen has largely bridged linguistic and ethnic barriers.

In Training Year 1998, the directors of the Slovenian Military Schools Program traveled to the United States to observe how the U.S. Army Officer Corps is developed. The visit included tours of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) headquarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia. At the TRADOC headquarters the Slovene officials gained insight and information concerning the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. The directors were impressed by the dedication and discipline required by the young men and women who successfully complete these programs.

The Nebraska National Guard, a new member of the State Partnership Program, hosted a Slovenian delegation during annual training in 1998. The Slovenes observed a mechanized infantry battalion at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and an armor battalion live-fire exercise at Fort Carson, Colorado. The Slovenian officials were impressed by the professionalism of the Nebraska Guard in hosting these two events.

In Training Year 1999, the Colorado National Guard sponsored two Brigade Command & Staff Orientation visits. During the visits, eight Slovene generals, who are brigade commanders, received briefings on both Air and Army National Guard staff organization and functions. The generals observed the 169th Field Artillery Brigade in a live-fire exercise and visited a depot level maintenance facility. Further, the Slovene commanders became familiar with the Brigade/Battalion Simulator Trainer at Fort Carson which is used to train commanders and staff.

At the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, the Slovene generals watched a mechanized infantry brigade conduct a live-fire exercise. The exercise simulated a complete brigade offensive operation including M-1 and M-2 tanks performing bounding over-watch, movement to contact maneuvers; and artillery suppressions and support. Additionally, the Slovene officers observed engineers in obstacle clearing operations, as well as logistical and medical personnel performing support operations.

Through a visit to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) the Slovene brigade commanders gained a greater understanding of how the U.S. views the operational management of space.

The events and exchanges of 1998/99 have greatly increased the mutual understanding of those involved in this state partnership. The Colorado and Nebraska National Guards look forward to building upon the State Partnership Program with Slovenia next year.





## ***GEORGIA - THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA***

The Republic of Georgia is situated on the Black Sea bordering Turkey, Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The Republic has a landmass comparable to that of South Carolina. Ethnically, the population is 70% Georgian with significant minorities of Armenians, Russians and Azeris. The major religions are Christian Orthodox, both Georgian and Russian Orthodox, Muslim and Armenian Apostolic. Georgia's economy has traditionally revolved around Black Sea tourism; cultivation of citrus fruits, tea, and grapes; manganese and copper mining; and the output of a small industrial sector producing wine, metals, machinery, chemicals, and textiles. Georgia became independent on 26 May 1991.

Partnership Events for Training Year 1998 were cut from a proposed thirteen to an approved three due to funding constraints. These events included a stateside medical event sponsored by the Air National Guard, a continuation of staff coordination training at Fort Stewart by the 48th Infantry Brigade and a one week Military Support to Civil Authorities course. A fourth opportunity event occurred when the Georgian Minister of Defense traveled to Atlanta as part of a visit with the U.S. Secretary of Defense.

During the one-day visit by the Georgian Minister of Defense, the Georgia National Guard arranged an office visit with the governor, conducted a tour of the Georgia Army National Guard Headquarters and made a trip to an Army Guard Aviation Flight Facility.

The three planned events included a staff coordination exercise, a medical familiarization event and a Military Support to Civil Authorities course. The staff coordination event occurred at Fort Stewart, Georgia during the 48th Enhanced Infantry Brigade's Annual Training period. Senior staff officers from the Republic of Georgia National Guard observed a U.S. National Guard unit conducting field training. The Georgians also participated in a staff coordination exercise with the brigade staff. These events enhanced interoperability with western military forces and offered western alternatives for consideration.

The Georgia Air National Guard hosted eight Georgian doctors for a medical familiarization/educational event in July of 1998. The event took place at the Memorial Medical Center of Savannah and Fort Stewart. The physicians participated in a three-day seminar conducted by the hospital staff with lectures, audiovisual presentations and hands-on training. In addition, the doctors observed the medical company of the 148th Forward Support Battalion conduct a medical exercise (MEDEX) during annual training at Fort Stewart.



*Georgian National Guard's and 48th Brigade staff members at Fort Stewart, Georgia during staff coordination event. (Jul 98)*



*Georgian National Guardsmen with members of the Georgia National Guard's 48th Inf Bde at Fort Stewart, Georgia during staff coordination event. (Jul 98)*

In the third event, two Georgian National Guardsmen attended the National Interagency Civil-Military Institute's Military Support to Civil Authorities Course in September 1998. The course emphasizes military subordination to civilian authority and teaches how the many and varied government agencies work in concert during times of natural or manmade disaster to alleviate the suffering of citizens affected by such events.

A major change took place in the Georgia to Georgia State Partnership Program with the advent of the 1999 training year. Prior to October 1998, the Republic of Georgia was under the Joint Staff's area of responsibility, but beginning 1 October 1998, the area of responsibility shifted to the Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command.



*Georgian doctors with Memorial Medical Center's Life Flite helicopter during the medical event. (Jul 98)*

With this change came the placement of a Military Liaison Team in Tbilisi. The team consisting of four U.S. personnel was in place in April 1999. The team chief is an active duty Colonel. The position of deputy team chief is a lieutenant colonel billet allocated to the Georgia National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel C. J. Nutter was selected for the position and became the first Georgia National Guardsman to be assigned to the one-year tour of duty in the Republic of Georgia.

Five events were approved for Training Year 1999 and funded through the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM). The approved events were two staff exercises with the 48th Infantry Brigade, two search and rescue events with the 78th Troop Command and one senior level leader visit. All events were conducted with the exception of the senior level visit which was canceled due to a shortage of military aircraft during the Kosovo crisis.

The State Partnership Program facilitates the U.S. State Department's Strategies for the former Soviet Union Countries. The State of Georgia and USEUCOM will continue efforts to promote democracy in the newly independent states and looks forward to continuing the relationship with the Republic of Georgia.



## ***ILLINOIS - POLAND***

The Republic of Poland shares borders with Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Germany. Poland, which has a shoreline on the Baltic Sea, is slightly smaller than New Mexico. Ethnically, the population is 98% Polish with 95% of the population professing Roman Catholicism.



The Illinois National Guard had a very productive training year 1998 with the State Partnership Program participating in 15 Joint Contact Team Program events. These events took place in Illinois and Poland, at various TRADOC installations as well as in the Washington, D.C. area. Both the Illinois Army and Air National Guard conducted or supported events for various other organizations. These events covered a broad range of subjects reflecting the size, readiness and current state of the Polish Armed Forces. The high point of the year, however, was undoubtedly the entry of Poland into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The year began with officers and soldiers from various maintenance units and activities visiting their counterparts in Warsaw, Poland. In the fall of 1998, a three-man team from A Company, 2d Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group attended a SHAPE-sponsored Peacekeeping Conference in the Polish capital. The members of the Illinois National Guard team recount to conference attendees experiences gained from deployments to Haiti, which was much appreciated by all in attendance.

The Illinois National Guard also supported Counterpart Visits for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. LTG Zalewski, Commander, Polish Land Forces, and BG Komanski, Chief, Territorial Defense Department, in May and June 1998 respectively, visited the NGB and Illinois to learn about the roles, missions and capabilities of the National Guard.

The Illinois National Guard also hosted a visit by the Political Advisor to Poland's Minister of Defense. Additionally, several Parliamentarians visited the Illinois National Guard during 1998. These trips assisted the visitors in gaining a better understanding of the National Guard's relationship with the Governor, various state agencies and the active components of the U.S. Army and Air Force.

The State of Illinois and the Illinois National Guard are still reaping significant benefits from participation in BRAVE EAGLE and EAGLE'S TALON events and in a Senior Leaders Opinion Trip for a delegation of forty Illinois citizens approximately 18 months ago. These exercises fostered support and understanding of the Illinois National Guard's State Partnership Program with Poland, as well as the role of the military in a peaceful transition from an authoritarian regime to a democracy.

In the 1999 training year, LTC James Hankins, Illinois National Guard, served as the Chief of the Military Liaison Team in Warsaw, Poland. As in the previous year, the Illinois National Guard participated in 15 Joint Contact Team Program events which occurred in Illinois, Poland, at various TRADOC installations, and in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Illinois National Guard recently hosted a visit by the Political Advisor to Poland's Minister of Defense, as part of a US Information Agency Foreign Visitor Program tour. Numerous Polish Parliamentarians again visited the Illinois National Guard in order to gain a better understanding of the National Guard's command relationships and functions within the overall governmental framework.



In August 1999, 35 soldiers from the Illinois Army National Guard participated in PEACESHIELD '99 as part of a large multi-national peacekeeping exercise, at the Yavoriv Military Training Area in Ukraine. The Illinois Army National Guard was invited to participate in the exercise because of the relationship it enjoys with the Polish military and to have the opportunity to exercise alongside the composite Polish-Ukrainian Peacekeeping Battalion. Based upon the broadly acknowledged success of the Illinois National Guard participants, Illinois has been given the role of exercise lead for PEACESHIELD 2000, a combined CAX and STX, which will again be conducted in Ukraine during July 2000.

There are significant areas where the ARNG and ANG can assist Poland in attaining NATO Force Goals; these goals were presented by NGB-IA at USEUCOM's NATO Enlargement Conference in February.

As Poland's partner, the Illinois National Guard is very proud of Poland's entry into NATO and anticipates a continued, active partnership with the Wojsko Polskie.



## ***INDIANA - SLOVAKIA***

The Slovak Republic became an independent state in 1993 following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia is bordered by Poland, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The nation is approximately twice the size of New Hampshire. The populace is 86% ethnic Slovak with a significant Hungarian minority (11%). The majority of Slovaks (60%) profess Roman Catholicism.

The partnership between the Indiana National Guard and Slovakia continues to strengthen. In training year 1998, the Indiana National Guard participated in 20 scheduled events and assisted in a number of other United States European Command sponsored events. Additionally, Indiana Guardsmen assisted TRADOC with many stateside events.

Indiana emergency planners also participated in a NATO sponsored Flood Emergency Planning Workshop hosted by the Slovak Minister of the Interior, which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The Indiana National Guard and the State Emergency Management Agency presentations were discussed extensively at this international event. Emergency planners from 11 European nations, as well as other agencies of the international emergency response network, participated in this event. Conversely, emergency planners from Slovakia traveled to Indiana to work with state and local agencies. The Slovaks toured emergency operations centers at the local and state levels.

They received information and briefings from a myriad of federal, state and local agencies. The information exchanged was invaluable for Indiana emergency planners.

During a National Guard Bureau coordination visit to Washington, D.C., the Adjutant General of Indiana asked National Guard Bureau International Affairs to brief members of the Indiana House of Representatives. Speaker John Gregg and members of the Indiana National Guard were then invited to a ceremony hosted by the Slovak Embassy in honor of the fifth anniversary of Slovak Independence. The State Partnership Program received many accolades from the various high-ranking speakers at this ceremony. Major General Robert Mitchell received a personal invitation from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to attend a reception honoring Slovak Chief of Defense. Indiana officers and non-commissioned officers traveled to Slovakia 17 times to provide information requested by the Slovak military on a wide range of subjects. In addition to these activities, Indiana hosted 30 soldiers during annual training 1999. These soldiers “shadowed” their U.S. soldier counterpart for two weeks. This event was extremely important to nurture the relationship between soldiers of Indiana National Guard and the Slovakia.

The Indiana National Guard is now supporting a new “shadow” program where Slovak officers and NCOs work side by side with their American counterparts during an annual training period. This program has proven mutually beneficial: the Slovak soldiers gain American perspectives and the American soldiers gain a better appreciation of international relations and central European military forces. The Indiana National Guard hopes and plans to be included in any Partnership for Peace exercise in which the Slovak Republic participates.

More exchange opportunities are expected as the Slovak Ministry of Defense reviews their national goals and objectives for the upcoming years. Indiana expects to expand the State Partnership Program beyond defense exchange programs, to include exchanges involving the agricultural and environmental areas, as well as the political and economic areas.



## ***MARYLAND - ESTONIA***

Estonia has a land area slightly larger than that of Vermont and New Hampshire combined. Russia, Latvia, the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland border the country. Estonia celebrates February 24, 1918 as Independence Day. The two major ethnic groups are Estonian (62%) and Russian (30%). Lutheran is the most common religious affiliation. Estonia has pursued an ambitious program of market reforms and economic stabilization. The results are seen in an increasing Gross National Product and growing private sector.

During Training Year 1998, the Maryland National Guard hosted eleven Traveling Contact Teams and fourteen Familiarization Visits with Estonia. The events provided the Estonians a focused overview of the civil-military aspect of emergency response and support to civil authorities during crisis management. Visits to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency were paramount to the Estonians in understanding how the military provides support during hurricanes, snowstorms and other types of civil crisis contingency operations. Each event added to the Estonians' overall understanding of the relationship between the U.S. National Guard and civil authorities.

The Maryland National Guard hosted events centered on leadership at the officer and non-commissioned officer level. This has evolved over the years to enable the Estonians to more fully understand the American military leadership experience. Members of the 70th Training Regiment, who routinely train officer candidates and non-commissioned officers in military leadership, sponsored many discussions on the philosophy of American style leadership. With the knowledge gained through these exchanges, the Estonian Ministry of Defense and the General Staff are reviewing at their leadership training programs.

Additional events that the Maryland National Guard and Estonia conducted involved medical emergency response, law enforcement procedures, staff operations and chaplain's duties.

Maryland National Guard was one of two states in the Partnership Program to send officers to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Major William Everett from Maryland and Major Scott White from Ohio completed a Master of Arts in Civil Military Relations and International Security. These officers have a unique understanding of the international arena and were required to complete a thesis in this subject area. Major Everett wrote his thesis on "Professionalizing the Estonian Reserve Component" and how similar processes might be applied to other European countries. Maryland's Partnership with Estonia was used as a case study of the "citizen soldier" concept. Both officers spent the entire year with Eastern European members of the State Partnership Program, which allowed them to gain a unique understanding of the dynamics of former Soviet bloc militaries. Additionally Maryland has sent several junior officers to various Military Liaison Teams throughout Europe to enhance their understanding of the former Soviet states.

The Maryland National Guard was instrumental in establishing links between the Maryland Higher Education System and the Estonian Ministry of Education. The most significant event was the visit of the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Maryland and forty educators and economic developers to Estonia in May 1999. During this visit, solid contacts were established and education exchanges are projected for FY-2000 using computer based web-sites and distance learning classrooms.

Maryland has participated in several Guardex programs with Estonia, and other Baltic States. These comprehensive programs established by National Guard Bureau enhance the State Partnership Program and provides an additional asset to the Commander

in Chief U.S. European Command. The Maryland National Guard has requested and received Minuteman Fellowship money mainly to fund the education initiatives begun by the lieutenant governor and the educators.

The Maryland National Guard is extremely proud of the State Partnership with the Republic of Estonia. In total, 62 events were conducted in Training Year 1998 and 48 were conducted in Training Year 1999. Forty events are projected for Training Year 2000. New and innovative ideas have been presented for the future years to include economic development projects and sister city programs. All these initiatives are designed to enhance corporation and demonstrate the importance of a citizen-based military.

The Maryland National Guard is extremely proud of the State Partnership with the Republic of Estonia. In total, 62 events were conducted in Training Year 1998 and 48 were conducted in Training Year 1999. Forty events are projected for Training Year 2000. New and innovative ideas have been presented for the future years to include economic development projects and sister city programs. All these initiatives designed to enhance cooperation and demonstrate the importance of a citizen-based military.



## ***MICHIGAN - LATVIA***

Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia and the Baltic Sea border the Republic of Latvia. Latvian with 52% and Russian with 34% comprise the two largest ethnic segments of the population. Primary religions are Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Russian Orthodox. Although Latvia gained independence on 6 September 1991 from the Soviet Union, the country celebrates 18 November 1918 as Independence Day.

The Michigan National Guard completed 17 Traveling Contact Teams, eight Familiarization Visits as well as GUARDEX '98 and Baltic Challenge '98 with Latvia during Training Year 1998. Several subject areas covered included Air National Guard organization; equipment and ammunition safety; computer based information management; insights into chaplains in the field; emergency operations and crisis management; and military health services during civil and natural emergencies.

As part of an international effort to promote environmental security throughout the Baltic region of Europe, the Michigan National Guard conducted environmental awareness training for 15 members of the Latvian and Lithuanian National Armed Forces and Ministries of Environment. With the assistance of members from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and members of the Swedish Armed Forces, the training was hosted by the Camp Grayling Environmental Office from 17 to 26 August.



The training was oriented towards military leaders and focused on pollution prevention, waste minimization, natural resource protection and land use management. As part of the training, field tours were conducted of groundwater clean-up systems; wastewater treatment facilities; endangered species protection and habitat enhancement locations; and waste materials handling buildings.

In August, the Michigan Guard deployed an infantry platoon of 35 soldiers to Klaipeda, Lithuania to participate in Baltic Challenge 98. More than 5,000 air, naval, and ground forces from 11 countries participated in the humanitarian and peacekeeping exercise. Baltic Challenge 98, held under the auspices of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, was the largest exercise of its kind ever held in the region. In addition to the United States, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden participated.

The training scenario was based on a fictional earthquake striking the country of "Westland." Stabilizing this Baltic nation required coordination between air, land and naval forces. Troops were sent to restore order and secure roadways. Planes and helicopters ferried military personnel and simulated casualties. Offshore, minesweepers from Poland, Germany and Estonia cleared the harbor. The U.S.N.S. hospital ship Comfort, the world's largest hospital ship, was anchored in the Klaipeda harbor to treat "injured" civilians and military personnel who were airlifted aboard during medical evacuation training. Instructors from different nations conducted hands-on training in skills such as land mine awareness, counter-sniper techniques, riot control, and checkpoint operations.

For the peacekeeping portion of the exercise, a squad of Michigan Guardsmen played the role of paramilitary thugs who had set up a roadblock on a public highway.



*Camp Grayling, Michigan. Viewing a timber bridge across the AuSable River.*



*Students see how land with erosion control problems can be corrected by planting native grass seed.*



*Michigan Guard soldier plays a "paramilitary thug" and is "apprehended" by Swedish troops.*



*Swedish soldiers take wounded "thug" to first-aid station. BALTIC CHALLENGE 98.*

member delegation from his state that included business, military and legislative leaders. Major General E. Gordon Stump, the Adjutant general of Michigan, led the group. During their tour, the delegates met with dozens of Baltic leaders from the public and private sectors.



*Michigan business, military and legislative leaders meet with their Baltic counterparts. Here along the banks of the Daugava River, Riga, Latvia*

sustain the tempo and value of past partnership events. This event provided competitive training as well as evaluation of Common Task and Mission Essential Task List lanes at the squad and platoon levels. Operation "Cornerstone" conducted during the summer of 1999 found Michigan Engineers working with Navy Seabees and Latvian soldiers to refurbish an orphanage in Riga, Latvia.

The State of Michigan conducted its first "Minuteman Fellowship" event in February. The Michigan National Guard along with the Michigan State Police, sent

Dressed in Battle Dress Uniforms and old sweatshirts, "thugs" harassed the Swedish soldiers who came to disperse them. The Swedes initially employed negotiation tactics, but tensions escalated, and mock sniper fire erupted from the nearby woods. Aiming low

For the U.S. troops, the presence of civilians in and around the training area enhanced realism. Civilians routinely passed through the checkpoints and roadblocks set up by soldiers as part of the exercise. All the activity attracted a steady stream of inquisitive local children.

Although Baltic Challenge 98 brought new training experiences, the National Guard's role in the exercise has expanded beyond the military dimension. Major James McCrone of the Michigan Army National Guard escorted a 30-

In Training Year 1999, Michigan hosted a major training event called "Partner Challenge 1999". The very successful two-week training event involved National Guard units from Maryland and Pennsylvania as well as soldiers from the countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. The intent of this training event was to heighten awareness of the State Partnership Program and



*BALTIC CHALLENGE 98. Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian troops train with Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvanian Guardsmen.*

soldiers and policemen to Latvia to discuss military support to civil authorities. This very successful discussion proved beneficial and will be conducted in future training years. Again, a successful event establishing roles of civil authorities in support of military operations.

For all of the events associated with the State Partnership Program, civic organizations, volunteer groups, families and government officials have opened their homes, hearts and businesses to Latvian and Michigan Guard members who participated. Families have boarded soldiers and airmen; community groups have hosted partnership guests; and government officials have facilitated initiatives and provided mutual support. Businesses have made donations to orphanages, hospitals and partnership activities. The partnership became more personal when Latvia and Michigan personnel collaborated to designate a unique name for the program. The Latvian word “Sadarbība” was selected to define the very real relationship that is developing. Sadarbība literally translates into English as “Working Together.” State and community support has truly enriched, strengthened and broadened the initial expectations of the program.



## **MINNESOTA - CROATIA**

Croatia is a former republic of Yugoslavia located between Slovenia and Bosnia and has a coast on the Adriatic Sea. Independence came with the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991. The Croats, who are mostly Roman Catholic, comprise 78% of the population while Serbs, who are mostly Eastern Orthodox, make up 12% of the populace.

The State of Minnesota sponsored fourteen events as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP) during Training Year 1998. Six of the events were Familiarization Visits (FAM) and were eight being Traveling Contact Teams (TCT). The FAMs were designed to provide Croatian soldiers an in-depth view of the operations sections of U.S. organizations.

The Military Personnel Management and Facilities Management FAMs were key events in which the Croatians were able to immediately apply the information received to their own systems. The After Action Reviews (AAR) conducted subsequent to these



events indicated that the visits were tremendous learning experiences for officers of both countries. The specific subjects discussed were:

- Reserve Component Training Center Facilities Management
- Reserve Component Personnel Management
- Reserve Component Signal Battalion Operations Center
- Reserve Component Infantry Operations
- Reserve Component Engineer Battalion Operations
- Reserve Component Logistics Battalion Operations

There were eight TCTs that occurred between Minnesota and Croatia. Military Support to Civil Authorities and Civil-Military Cooperation (MSCA) in the National Guard (NG) were especially important as the Croatians are in the process of re-defining the relationship between the military and the civilian government. One of the main lessons learned was how mutual benefits are gained and a positive climate fostered through open working relationship. TCTs focused on specific organizations and provided information needed on the typical employment of systems, equipment, and personnel. The CTs focused on the following subject areas:

- Unit Evaluations and Situational Training Exercises (Lanes Training)
- Aircraft Systems Operations/Maintenance
- Division Command Posts and Framework of the Battlefield
- Signal Battalion Mission, Equipment and Training
- Military Chaplaincy
- Military Facilities Planning and Management
- Civil-Military Cooperation in the National Guard
- Military Support to Civil Authorities



*Display of Croat TRI-TAC communication equipment near Zagreb, Croatia.*

During Training Year 1999 the Minnesota National Guard (MNNG) conducted five Familiarization Visits (FAMs) and nine Traveling Contact Teams (TCTs) were conducted. Operations was the focus of the FAMs. The highlight of the FAM events was a visit to the Armor School. Specific subject areas were as follows:



U.S. Military Coding System  
Command Inspection Program-MORE  
U.S. Army/Air Force Communication Schools  
Armor School Tour  
Public Affairs Officer Shadow

Croatian officers and NCOs received the TCTs very well. Information presented is adapted and incorporated into Croat organizations. Specific topics covered were:

State Level Logistics  
Maneuver Brigade Operations & Planning  
Post Infra-Structure Planning  
Interception of Targets  
Air Defense of High Value Targets  
Division Logistics/DISCOM Operations  
Fighter Aircraft Maintenance  
U.S. Army Engineer Brigade Operations  
NBC Unit Organization & Missions

The MNNG also hosted five visits from delegations of the Croatian Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense. Additionally, Minnesota officers and non-commissioned officers traveled to Croatia eight times to provide information requested by the Croatian military on a wide range of subjects. These events were extremely important in strengthening the relationship between soldiers of the MNNG and Croatia.

The high level of professionalism demonstrated by both the Croatian military as well as United States Army personnel is a significant factor in the continuing success of this State Partnership.

The MNNG considers the SPP to be an extremely important component in the development of the ongoing relationship between Croatia, the United States of America and the State of Minnesota.



*Croatian display of signal operations center near Zagreb, Croatia.*



## ***NORTH CAROLINA - MOLDOVA***

The Republic of Moldova, which is about the size of Maryland, is located between Romania and Ukraine. Ethnically, 65% of the populace is Moldovan, 14% is Ukrainian, and 13% is Russian. Eastern Orthodox is professed by 98% of the population. Moldova enjoys a favorable climate and good farmland but has no major mineral deposits. As a result, the economy depends heavily on agriculture, featuring fruits, vegetables, wine, and tobacco. The Moldovan Government has made progress on an ambitious economic reform agenda. As part of its reform efforts, Moldova introduced a stable convertible currency, freed all prices, stopped issuing preferential credits to state enterprises and backed steady land privatization, removed export controls, and freed interest rates.

In addition to the National Guard, the citizens of North Carolina have been actively involved with the people of Moldova. The community colleges North Carolina have sent 5,000 textbooks to Moldova to assist in language training and to enhance educational libraries. The Little Samaritan Mission in Hickory operates a soup kitchen and an orphanage in Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova, and a Christian radio station broadcasting throughout the country. Over 15 churches and synagogues in the North Carolina Baptist and Jewish communities are active in missionary, humanitarian and educational exchange programs in Moldova. The Greensboro Rotary has established an affiliation with the Chisinau Rotary in North Carolina partner nation.

On 22 April 1999, the President of Moldova, Petru Lucinschi and his delegation visited Raleigh, North Carolina. This was the first presidential visit to the United States from the newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States. The delegation included the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, Moldovan Ambassador to the U.S., Head of International Relations Ministry of Defense, and the First Secretary, Moldovan Embassy.

His Excellency Petru Lucinschi is the newly elected President of Moldova, only the second freely elected President since Moldova gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. President Lucinschi visited North Carolina with three objectives. The first was to meet with Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. for discussions and the signing of a Memorandum of Intent between North Carolina and Moldova for exchanges of civic, educational, economic and cultural resources. Secondly, the Moldovan President met with Major General Gerald A. Rudisill, Jr., the Adjutant General of North Carolina and discussed the on-going partnership program between the North Carolina National Guard and Moldova. The President's third objective was to meet with North Carolina business leaders to discuss trade opportunities.

After a visit to the National Guard Headquarters, an address to the General Assembly, and the visit with Governor Hunt, the Moldovan delegation departed for Hickory, North Carolina to attend the opening ceremony of the Honorary Moldovan Consulate. Moldova is the first country from the Commonwealth of Independent States to have a consulate in the United States. The Little Samaritan Mission in Hickory is the driving force behind the opening of the consulate and their support has made this possible.

The University of North Carolina System, comprising 22 campuses, has developed an educational partnership to promote the development of higher education in Moldova. The University received a \$300,000 grant from the United States Information Agency to assist in this effort. The partnership includes faculty exchanges and cooperative activities in three broad academic areas, agriculture, business administration, and public administration/public policy.

North Carolina cities of Greensboro and Winston-Salem have established sister city relationships with cities in Moldova. In addition, Rotary organizations from those cities are conducting joint international humanitarian programs.

Hospitals throughout North Carolina have donated \$1.7 million in medical equipment to the National Military Hospital and the Children's Hospital. The North Carolina Air National Guard delivered the initial shipment in August 1999. The equipment has improved the quality of medical care in Moldova and demonstrated North Carolina's commitment to this state partnership.

Wake Forest University Medical School, a private university, is sponsoring fellowships for Moldovan doctors to come to North Carolina for advanced study. North Carolina companies have also donated over \$290,000 in medicines, mostly antibiotics. A consortium of dentists and physicians from the Triangle area travel to Moldova several times each year to donate their services. Similarly, the Hospice of the Carolinas established a hospice in Chisinau, Moldova.

A medical officer from the North Carolina National Guard arranged the donation of an eight-month supply of insulin to Moldova for the diabetic children. This donation came at a time when children were dying due to the critically low insulin supply.

The many visits, exchanges and events demonstrate the mutual trust and confidence that has developed as a result of the State Partnership Program. The citizens of North Carolina look forward to a continuing, strong relationship with the people of Moldova.



## ***OHIO - HUNGARY***

The central European nation of Hungary is slightly smaller than Indiana and is bordered by Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and Slovakia. Hungary, despite difficulties, has made notable strides in transitioning to a market economy. The State of Ohio especially values its relationship with Hungary due to the large ethnic population of Hungarians living in the major metropolitan areas of Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus and Dayton.

Training Year 1998 culminated with the Ohio Air National Guard's "Buckeye Express" Deployment to Hungary from 15 to 29 August 1998. The Ohio Air National Guard's own 555th Air Force Band and 10 Traveling Contact Team subject matter experts from both the Air and Army Guard conducted this first, large-scale peacetime deployment to Eastern Europe. The purpose of this exercise was to provide National Guard expertise throughout all major air and army installations in Hungary and to further develop the Ohio/Hungary State Partnership. The 555th Air Force Band performed for the U.S. Ambassador's formal Hungarian Independence Day Dinner/Dance, Independence Day festivities in the city of Veszprem, the NATO Air show in Kecskemet and the national officer commissioning ceremony in Budapest. This event was an outstanding success, which will serve as a benchmark model for future state partner events.

For the year 2000 and beyond, the primary focus will continue to be assisting Hungary in meeting the Target Force Goals set forth by NATO for full integration into the Alliance. Another focus will be on expanding the sister relationships already developed between Ohio's two F-16 Fighter Wings and the Hungarian MiG 21 and MiG 29 Fighter Wings. New sister relations with the air transports and Army units are being considered. Future activities may include Air and Army engineers, or other various organizations deploying to work on humanitarian projects. Joint training exercises may be developed to deploy Hungarian Defense Force members to Ohio or Hungarian training locations to observe tactical command post operations, staff interactions, field operations and basic soldiering skills. Ohio might also provide aircraft to support the annual national air show. Further growth and expansion of the Minuteman Fellows Program will include NCO level development and military specialty training and Military Support to Civil Authorities. Through the State Partnership Program, Ohio hopes to assist Hungary in developing democratic institutions and achieving economic prosperity while gaining an international friend.





## ***PENNSYLVANIA - LITHUANIA***

The Republic of Lithuania is located on the Baltic Sea, between Belarus, Latvia, Poland, and Russia. Lithuania is slightly larger than West Virginia. The population is 80% Lithuanian with Russian and Polish being the two largest minority groups (each with an 8% segment of the population). The primary religions are Roman Catholic and Lutheran.

The Pennsylvania National Guard and the country of Lithuania conducted three GUARDEX events, thirteen Traveling Contact Teams and five Familiarization Visits during Training Year 1998. The GUARDEX events consisted of a Brigade/Division Staff Planning Exercise where six officers from the National Defense Volunteer Force attended a Command Post Exercise (CPX) with the 28th Infantry Division. The CPX was conducted during the period of 8 to 18 June 1998 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The officers participated in the decision making process, order writing and battle tracking. Next was an engineering operations exercise "During Peacetime Support" which also occurred at Fort Indiantown Gap. This exercise was conducted from 11 to 25 July 1998, where seven engineer platoon leaders attended annual training with the 876th Engineer Battalion, 28th Infantry Division. The Lithuanians became familiar with U.S.-type engineering missions; U.S. engineering organization; concepts of obstacle support planning; and coordination between units. Finally, the partners conducted an exercise in Military Police Organization and Security Operations Planning in Peacekeeping. Five platoon leaders from the Lithuanian Security Battalion attended annual training with the 28th Military Police (MP) Company, 28th Infantry Division which was also held at Fort Indiantown Gap between 8 and 18 June 1998. The Lithuanians received training on military police security operations, organizations, missions of MP platoons; and United States Army concepts of security planning and coordination during peace support operations.

The Familiarization Visits covered two main topics. Lanes Training, where Lithuanian soldiers observed how lanes are conceptualized, resourced, conducted and evaluated. The other, Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services, where the Lithuanian troops observed vehicle tenance procedures and techniques used to repair and troubleshoot utility vehicles. Emphasis was placed on information and techniques used to develop maintenance systems that support maintenance systems that support maintenance on the engine, transmission, transfer case, front wheel assembly, universal joints, suspension systems, steering box, electrical system and body repairs.

A second Familiarization Visit was an introductory event in which the Lithuanian soldiers observed U.S. battalion level communications platoon operations. This event provided information and demonstrated communications architecture for battalion

level operations with subordinate units. The event also detailed higher headquarters maintenance procedures; mobile communications centers; field and operational procedures; and recommended equipment and installation techniques.

The final Familiarization Visit covered Combat Service Support. Four officers from National Defense Volunteer Force observed annual training with elements of 28th Division Support Command from 7 to 12 June 1998. During this period, the Lithuanian officers observed all aspects of combat service support to an Infantry Division.

There was a total of thirteen Traveling Contact Teams deployed by the Pennsylvania Guard to Lithuania during Training Year 1998. A few examples of the types of activities accomplished during these periods were:

Long Range Reconnaissance- During this event, soldiers discussed near reconnaissance procedures; troop leading procedures; mission analysis and patrol order preparation, rehearsals, and reconnaissance reports. Communications, security and movement formations, departure and reentry procedures, and debriefing were also discussed. Other subjects discussed included the planning, preparation and execution of tactical exercises for small reconnaissance units. The host unit was the Iron Wolf Brigade reconnaissance platoon.

Air Defense Organization- This event provided insights into the organization, doctrine, operations, equipment and techniques the U.S. employs during anti-air warfare operations. The information that was shared during this event enabled the Lithuanian Defense Forces to plan the organization and responsibilities of anti-air units. The information was further used in the development of doctrine, techniques and procedures required for NATO interoperability. The event also provided information and discussions on such doctrinal areas as command and control; communications requirements with higher, adjacent and subordinate units; tactics, techniques and procedures; and NATO interoperability procedures.

Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Reconnaissance Techniques - This event provided information to the Lithuanians through discussion and demonstrations on U.S. procedures for conducting NBC reconnaissance missions. Methods of detection, reporting and marking-of contaminated areas; immediate action requirements; defensive postures for reconnaissance elements; and NBC munitions awareness were subjects discussed during this exchange of information. NATO standard forms, reporting procedures and familiarization with reference materials were Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Reconnaissance Techniques - This event provided information to the Lithuanians through discussion and demonstrations on U.S. procedures for conducting NBC reconnaissance missions. Methods of detection, reporting and marking-of contaminated areas; immediate action requirements; defensive postures for reconnaissance elements; and NBC munitions awareness were subjects discussed during this exchange of information. NATO standard forms, reporting procedures and familiarization with reference materials were also presented.

Plan Development, Individual and Collective Tasks - The event provided introductory level information to National Defense Volunteer Force officers on the development of Mission Essential Task Lists (Battalion and Company Level), Platoon Collective Task Lists and Individual Soldier Training Standards. This event described methods of measuring readiness levels for each of these areas. The instructors focused on the process of incorporating these standards into the overall command annual training plan. Presentation included discussion of documents and documentation used by U.S. National Guards to accomplish these tasks.

Planning and Executing Patrols - Representatives of the Lithuanian Defense Force General Staff, Army Brigades, the Military Academy, the NCO Academy and the Coastal Defense Battalion gained information on the U.S. standard system of planning combat and reconnaissance patrols, execution of the patrols and equipment used during these patrols. This event concentrated on dismounted as well as motorized patrols operating in the Lithuanian type of environment (forests, farm country and urban areas). The event consisted of two days of classroom discussions and three days of field demonstrations. This event resulted in the creation of a Standard Operating Procedures Manual and the institution of procedures for the development of lesson plans which will be used by the Lithuanian schools.

In Training Year 1998, elements of the 876th Engineer Battalion, 28 Infantry Division participated in Baltic Castle, an engineering exercise in main Lithuania. In Training Year 1999, Pennsylvania participated in the Partner Challenge Exercise in Michigan that brought together infantry units from Pennsylvania, Michigan, Maryland Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Also, in 1999, Lithuanian soldiers participated in the 213th Area Support Group's mission to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA. These engagement activities are extremely important to nurture the relationship between the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Lithuanian military personnel. The Pennsylvania National Guard also supports the "shadow" program in which Lithuanian officers or NCOs live side by side with their American counterpart observing their activities during annual training. Lithuanian soldiers will participate in the program as signal units from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard conduct annual training at Ft. Drum, NY.

The Pennsylvania National Guard and the Lithuanian Armed Forces have gained a great deal through their association in the State Partnership Program. Information on a multitude of military-related topics has been exchanged but more importantly strong relationships have been formed both on the personnel and organizational level. The Pennsylvania Lithuania partners anticipate a rewarding, long-term friendship.



## ***SOUTH CAROLINA -NEW JERSEY - ALBANIA***

Albania is located on the Balkan Peninsula in southeastern Europe between Greece, Serbia and Montenegro. Albania, which is approximately the size of Maryland, enjoys coasts on both the Adriatic and Ionian seas. A majority of the populace is Muslim, with Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic comprising significant minorities. Albania gained independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1921.

From 26 July through 4 August 1998, the Plans Operations and Military Support Office of the New Jersey Army National Guard hosted a Familiarization Visit at Fort Dix, New Jersey. This event was in support of GUARDEX 98. The visit exposed senior Albanian officers to all phases of infantry operations in a tactical environment. Colonel Maksim Subashi, Director of Mobilization, Albanian Ministry of Defense, was the head of the Albanian team. The Albanian officers observed the 2/113th Infantry Battalion, 42d Infantry Division, prepare for deployment, mobilize, deploy, operate in a hostile environment, recover and demobilize. Each phase was keyed by a contingency scenario during Annual Training.

Integration of various simulation devices provided by the Training and Technology Battle Lab, and use of live fire ranges, tactical maneuver and tactical decision making processes all culminated in the battalion achieving multi-echelon training. This was the ultimate objective of the Battle Focused Training Exercise which the Albanians observed.

In addition to the military exposure and experiences, the visiting dignitaries had an opportunity to tour many cultural centers and museums on their visit to the U.S. One of the highlights of their visit was a trip to the Statue of Liberty.

The South Carolina National Guard hosted an Albanian officer and an Albanian NCO who accompanied and observed American soldiers during Annual Training conducted at the McCrady Training Center. The soldiers from South Carolina gained an appreciation for international relations while the



*SGM Duke R. Khadan-Sawh, New Jersey SPP Coordinator shares a light moment with Albania VIPs.*



Albanian soldiers learned the functioning of the National Guard in the American system. Three Albanian officers from the Civil Protection Base and an interpreter from the Military Liaison Team recently returned home from a week's visit. The main events included visits to Richland and York County Emergency Preparedness Divisions to discuss operations between state and federal agencies during times of disaster. A visit to the State House was also conducted and briefings from the state officials presented.

The National Guards of South Carolina and New Jersey are proud to continue to participate in bilateral activities with the Albania Armed Forces and Ministry of Defense. The trust gained through the partnership between the states of South Carolina and New Jersey with Albania is a vital component in the search for peace.



## ***TENNESSEE - BULGARIA***

Bulgaria is slightly larger than its partner state Tennessee and is located between Romania, Turkey, and the Black Sea. The population is approximately 85% Eastern Orthodox and 13% is Muslim. Although Bulgaria gained actual independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1908, the country celebrates March 3, 1887 as its national day.

The Tennessee National Guard (TNNG) participated in 16 Joint Contact Team Program events during Training Year 1998, which included Traveling Contact Teams (TCT) and Familiarization Visits (FAM) with Bulgaria. Most notable of these, were events discussing Direct Recruiting Techniques, the Army Safety Program and the Family Support Group Program. Based on the information they received, the Bulgarian officials acted almost immediately to revise a number of Bulgarian programs. Units of the Bulgarian Armed Forces have been "sistered" with units from the TNNG and have established Family Support Groups that mirror U.S. Guard Programs. These relationships are within the Armor, Engineer, Military Police and Field Artillery branches.

The TNNG participated in the "CORNERSTONE-98" exercise (Engineer Renovation of a Regional Hospital) in Bulgaria, which was conducted during the summer of 1998. The 194th Engineer Brigade was designated as the Joint and Bilateral Task Force Command and Control element. The Army National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserve all contributed engineer support for this exercise.

The renovated facility is approximately 20 years old and serves more than 50 communities in Central Western Bulgaria. U.S. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen worked hand-in-hand with their Bulgarian engineering and logistical counterparts to

successfully plan and execute one of the largest In-the-Spirit-of Partnership for Peace (ISOPfP) exercises ever conducted. Major William P. Wenzler, Operations Officer, 194th Engineer Brigade served as the Joint & Bi-Lateral Task Force Commander along with Major Rossen Petkov, Bulgarian Armed Forces, as the Co-Commander. Approximately 360 Engineer and Support personnel were “on the ground” for each of the three two-week rotations.

Major Michael Joe Alvarez, TNNG, served as the contracting officer and provided assistance in planning, scheduling, and executing activities associated with the exercise. Major Alvarez was also responsible for ensuring that required materials were on-hand, on time and that quality was acceptable.

Colonel William Hall, the U.S. Defense attaché, escorted Defense attachés from neighboring countries for visits to the construction site, where they were given progress briefings on the project. The Honorable Avis Bolin, U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, kept abreast of the Joint Task Force’s progress. The ambassador also visited troops in the field and toured the facility.

For Training Year 1999, the TNNG scheduled five TCTs, nine FAMs, and four Shadow Exchanges. Focus was divided between officer development and staff development. To that end, all TCTs involved sister unit exchanges between the Bulgarian Armed Forces and Battalion Commander’s and key staff from TNNG units. While in Bulgaria, the Tennessee Guard personnel briefed their counterparts on the duties and responsibilities of the commander and staff in the US military. Bulgaria sent senior staff members to Tennessee on a FAM to observe Tennessee units performing duties in either an Annual Training or IDT weekend drill. Some of the most unique events were the “Company Commander Shadow exchange” visits. In these four instances, Bulgarian Company/Troop commanders shadowed their sister unit counterparts from Tennessee as they prepared for deployment to Annual Training (AT). This type of event is one of the most beneficial ways for the Bulgarian military to understand the day-to-day unit activities during an AT period.

Family Assistance was the other major emphasis of the program. A three-person team from the TNNG Family Assistance office visited Bulgaria and briefed the Ministry of Defense on the structure and guidelines for unit level family assistance groups. Unique in this event was the participation of actual TNNG spouses who were active in their local family assistance groups. During a visit to Tennessee, Bulgarian military representatives observed the annual summer camp held for children of TNNG personnel.

Other events focused on unit safety programs, equipment OPTEMPO development, and budget formation and procurement procedures. TNNG subject matter experts briefed all events.

The Bulgarian Ministry of Defense is very interested in exploring the creation of a National Guard/Reserve force structure in their military as Bulgaria begins a reduction

of active forces. A four-person team from the Mobilization Readiness Branch of the TNNG State Area Command (STARC) visited Bulgaria and briefed the Ministry of Defense, J-1 and various military district commanders regarding RC structure issues.

The TNNG and the Armed Forces of Bulgaria have built a strong and lasting relationship. Further, Tennessee looks forward to continuing this fine relationship with Bulgaria.



### ***TEXAS - NEBRASKA - CZECH REPUBLIC***

The Czech Republic is located in the heart of Central Europe sharing borders with Austria, Germany, Poland, and Slovakia. The country is slightly smaller than South Carolina. The Czech Republic became an independent country as a result of the “Velvet Revolution” and the division of Czechoslovakia in 1993. Since that time, the Czech government has worked intently on economic reform repaying International Monetary Fund loans five years ahead of schedule. The Czech Republic is also one of the three newest members of the NATO Alliance.

In addition to the 12 State Partnership Program events completed in Training Year 1998, the Texas and Nebraska National Guards executed or assisted with ten military-to-military contacts with the Army of the Czech Republic and the Office of Civil Protection during Training Year 1999.

The participation of soldiers from Texas and Nebraska facilitated the exchange of information on a variety of subjects during familiarization visits, traveling contact team events and during escort duty of Czech visits to U.S. installations. Among the many topics covered were NBC training, combat vehicle driver’s training, force modernization, command and control, training methods for tank battalions, doctrine development, army oil analysis programs, and tank battalion logistics.

Several examples of the sincere and lasting nature of this partnership took place during Training Year 1998. In February 1998, four officers from the Army of the Czech Republic accompanied the staff of 3rd Brigade, 49th Armored Division, Texas Army National Guard to a very intensive staff planning seminar at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The second example occurred in June 1998 when the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade observed Company G (Long-Range Surveillance), 143<sup>rd</sup> Infantry during their Annual Training at Fort Hood, Texas.

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In addition to the visits mentioned above, the Office of Civil Protection has worked closely with the Texas and Nebraska National Guards in discussing and coordinating natural disaster preparedness. In June 1998, the Texas Army National Guard Office of Support to Civilian Authorities hosted several Czech officers from the Czech Office of Civil Protection. The Czech officers observed the Texas Department of Emergency Management Operations in Austin, Texas and the Federal Emergency Management Agency during actual day-to-day functions. The hosting agencies have a broad knowledge base and a high level of expertise in dealing with civil disasters.

In Training Year 1999, Czech soldiers trained alongside Texas Army National Guard soldiers at the training area in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The initial activity to begin this initiative was a great success. Additionally, the Territorial Defense Forces of the Army of the Czech Republic have worked closely with Texas in order to enhance the expertise required in dealing with civil disasters.

The partnership between the Czech Republic is greatly enhanced by the large population of U.S. citizens of Czech ancestry who live in Nebraska and Texas. Further, both Texas and Nebraska extend their most sincere congratulations to the Czech Republic regarding the nation's acceptance into NATO. The future of this partnership between Texas, Nebraska and the Czech Republic appears brighter than ever.





## ***UTAH - REPUBLIC OF BELARUS***

Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine border the Republic of Belarus. The former Soviet republic is the approximate size of Kansas. Ethnically, 78% of the populace is Belarussian and 13% is Russian. Eastern Orthodox is the professed religion of 80% of the population. Minsk was liberated from German occupation on 3 July 1944 which is remembered as the country's national day. Belarus gained independence from the Soviet Union on 25 August 1991.

The relationship between the Republic of Belarus and the Utah National Guard has fostered the goals of the program that were established at its inception. In 1998, the Utah National Guard sent one Traveling Contact Team to Belarus and hosted two Familiarization Visits.

The TCT was an event titled "Water Purification Systems" which was conducted 17 through 30 May 1998. The purpose of this event was to focus on the structure and equipment of the water purification units. Discussions included staffing, training requirements and the capacity and capabilities of water purification units in a field environment or in a disaster relief situation. The U.S. delegation consisted of one water purification NCO and one linguist. The Belarussian delegation requested a follow-on event where they could actually participate in field exercises with an U.S. water purification unit.

The first Familiarization Visit conducted was the Army National Guard Aviation in Support of a State Authority. This event was conducted 17 through 23 May 1998. The event provided the Ministry of Defense information on planning and preparation in support of state oriented missions utilizing reserve component aviation assets. Emphasis was placed on missions directed by the Governor (civil authority) with special emphasis on natural and man made disasters, crisis management and risk assessment. The Belarussian delegation included military support to civil authority, are heavily incorporated four senior colonels with backgrounds in aviation and training.

The next visit addressed the role of the Army National Guard in the management of ecological and technological issues in relation to military



*A visiting Belarussian officer checks out one of Utah's helicopters*

construction and training, as well as the preservation of the environment. This visit was conducted 31 May through 6 June 1998. The Utah National Guard hosted two Belarussian Army colonels with expertise in environmental issues. This event was very beneficial to the Belarussians who made suggestions to continue exchanges dealing with environmental issues.

The Deputy Team Chief of the Military Liaison Team, a Utah National Guardsman, played a significant role in developing the Belarussian Country “work plan” in partnership with the U.S. Embassy Staff and the Ministry of Defense.

Due to a diplomatic dispute between the government of Belarus and several other nations including the United States, the Department of State closed the Military Liaison Team in August of 1998. Although this year’s activities have been limited and the future of the program in Belarus is uncertain, the relationship between the Utah National Guard and the Republic of Belarus is one of mutual respect and understanding.



### ***VERMONT - FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA***

Macedonia is a land-locked country slightly larger than its partner state Vermont. Located on the Balkan Peninsula, the country shares borders with Greece to the south, Bulgaria to the east, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) to the north and Albania to the west. Approximately, 66% of the population is ethnically Macedonian, 23% is ethnic Albanian and 11% is made up of various other ethnic backgrounds. Approximately, 67% of the population is Eastern Orthodox and 30% is Muslim. Macedonia declared independence on November 17, 1991 and achieved independence without bloodshed.

In training year 1998 the Vermont National Guard (VTNG) participated in 18 Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP) events. A total of 11 Traveling Contact Teams (TCT) and seven Familiarization Visits (FAM) were conducted. The FAMs included: equipment maintenance; winter operations; engineer battalion operations; organization of emergency operations centers; infantry field procedures; environmental protection procedures; aviation and ground safety; medical specialty information sharing; infantry battalion unit operations; civil defense operations; and, an Armor Officer/NCO exchange.

In October 1999, a TCT with the title of “Women in the Military” was conducted in Macedonia. Among the members of this TCT was The Adjutant General of Vermont, MG Martha Rainville. The TCT illustrated the critical roles that women play in the U.S. military.

Colonel Martin Lucenti, VTNG, served as the team chief of the Military Liaison Team (MLT) in Skopje, Macedonia. During training year 1999, the State Partnership Program (SPP) with Macedonia expanded to include the 42nd Infantry Division (MECH).

The VTNG also hosted SPP events with Bulgaria in support of the Tennessee National Guard (TNNG) SPP. The 158th Fighter Wing had not participated in SPP events due to limited Macedonian air capabilities. The Bulgarian events, therefore, were an excellent opportunity for the 158th Fighter Wing to work with a state partner nation. Further, support has been offered to both Bulgaria and Tennessee.

The SPP facilitated a strong relationship between the VTNG and the Armed Forces of Macedonia. Additionally, the program provided Macedonian officials insight into the professional development of a reserve military force and how reserve components coordinate with civil authorities in times of domestic emergencies. Members of the VTNG also learned much concerning the command structure and weaponry of the Macedonian Armed Forces as well as much concerning the language and culture of their partner nation. Vermont looks forward to future SPP events, contacts, and exchanges of ideas with Macedonia. The partnership will continue to be a unifying agent enhancing military cooperation but more importantly building trust between people.

## ***CONCLUSION***

At the dawning of the twenty-first century, the world is faced with many important issues. The preceding one hundred years was a century of conflict but also a century of unprecedented progress. How can the United States as the most powerful and prosperous nation on earth help bring a sustainable peace to those countries attempting to deal with the lingering effects of the Cold War? The State Partnership Program is a single yet significant piece in answering this difficult question.

Since its inception in 1993, the State Partnership Program in the U.S. European Command has expanded to include the participation of 20 U.S. states and 17 foreign countries in a myriad of events from multinational exercises to business leader exchanges to over night family visits. The benefit to all has been incalculable. The partner nations have learned American ways of building a society and employing technology. The state partners have learned the many facets of cultures which were often thought to be hostile and strange.

Thanks to the efforts of the men and women of the State National Guards, of the partner nations and of the U.S. European Command staff 1998 and 99 were sterling years. Well beyond the events which were conducted, the most important result derived through the program are the many lasting organizational and personnel relationships established. If the past is a portent of the future, the years ahead hold great promise for the State Partnership Program.

